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| **Category** | **Criteria** | **Poor 🡨 RATING 🡪 Exemplary** |
| Thesis and organization | 1. Essay explores a concept with sufficient development of ideas; meets or exceeds the minimum length requirement without rambling or digressing. | 5 6 7 8 9 10 |
| 2. Essay is structured around a valid, insightful, and convincing argument. | 5 6 7 8 9 10 |
| 3, Thesis is easily identifiable and articulated; it is not too broad, too narrow, or too vague. | 5 6 7 8 9 10 |
| 4. Thesis is consistently supported with valid topic sentences and details from the primary text. | 5 6 7 8 9 10 |
| Analysis | 5. Relevant textual evidence is prevalent through the essay’s supporting arguments. | 5 6 7 8 9 10 |
| 6. Analysis of textual evidence explicitly and accurately identifies literary elements (character, plot, meaning) and poetic/rhetorical devices. | 5 6 7 8 9 10 |
| 7. Analysis of textual evidence is concise but displays insight and depth of understanding; incorporation of secondary sources augments the central argument of the essay. | 5 6 7 8 9 10 |
| Style | 8. Transitions between paragraphs and ideas are sophisticated and applicable to the relationship between ideas. | 5 6 7 8 9 10 |
| 9. Context for quotations is concise and aids in seamlessly weaving quotations. | 5 6 7 8 9 10 |
| 10. The introduction and conclusion compellingly utilize all required essay elements. | 5 6 7 8 9 10 |

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| **Category** | **Criteria** | **Poor 🡨 RATING 🡪 Exemplary** |
| Grammar | 11. Syntax is clear and sophisticated, with a variety of sentence types. | 5 6 7 8 9 10 |
| 12. Common grammar errors involving spelling, agreement, phrasing, and punctuation are virtually nonexistent. | 5 6 7 8 9 10 |
| MLA | 13. Formatting of essay adheres to MLA guidelines. | 5 6 7 8 9 10 |
| 14. Parenthetical documentation (in-text citation) adheres to MLA guidelines. | 5 6 7 8 9 10 |
| 15. The Works Cited list adheres to MLA guidelines. | 5 6 7 8 9 10 |
| 🖉 | EXTRA POINTS FOR TRUTH, RISK, AND PASSION: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_  Point deductions: \_\_\_\_\_\_ day(s) late = \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ points off  Incomplete essay receives a 50%.  Plagiarized essay receives a 0%. | **TOTAL: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_/ 150** |

**Rating Key:**

5 – not evident 8 - adequate

6 – barely there 9 - strong

7- measurable, but flawed 10 - exemplary